

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A powder body metering apparatus comprising:  
a base plate having an inlet and an outlet provided through in a vertical direction[[,]];  
a slide plate provided in a lower surface of the base plate so as to freely move horizontally and having a through hole provided in a vertical direction[[,]]; and  
a metering container in which an edge portion of an upper end opening is fixed to an edge portion of the through hole of the slide plate, [[and]]  
the metering container being structured such that said metering container is variable in an internal capacity, ~~and is~~  
the metering container being provided in a lower portion with a porous body not allowing a powder body having a set magnitude to pass through and allowing a gas to pass through, wherein:  
said slide plate is freely [[move]] movable between a position at which the through hole meets the inlet of the base plate and a position at which the through hole meets the outlet of the base plate, [[and]]  
the inlet of the base plate is closed in a state in which the through hole meets the outlet of the base plate, ~~wherein~~  
a powder body discharge port is formed in a lower portion of said metering container, and  
the powder body discharge port is freely opened and closed by a closing member for inhibiting the powder body from flowing out ~~therefrom~~ of the metering container,  
said closing member being formed at least in part by said porous body.

2. (currently amended) A powder body metering apparatus comprising;

a metering container having an inlet in an upper end and a horizontal outlet in an upper side portion,

a check valve for opening and closing the inlet of the metering container, and

an upward discharge pipe connected to the horizontal outlet, [[and]]

the metering container being structured such that said metering container is variable in an internal capacity, ~~and is~~

the metering container being provided in a lower portion with a porous body not allowing a powder body having a set magnitude to pass through and allowing a gas to pass through, wherein:

a powder body discharge port is formed in a lower portion of said metering container, and

the powder body discharge port is freely opened and closed by a closing member for inhibiting the powder body from flowing out ~~therefrom~~ of the metering container,

said closing member being formed at least in part by said porous body.